

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the Application. All claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Steadham in view of Deinhart.

Drawings

According to Applicant's records, formal drawings were filed with the amendment of July 2003, in response to the Examiner's prior request for formal drawings. Nevertheless, Applicant submits herewith a second set of drawings for consideration by the Examiner.

Claim Objection

Applicant respectfully notes that a review of Claim 1, Line 7, as modified in the amendment of July 2003, will confirm that Applicant deleted the semi-colon after the term "a non-providing user" by running a line through the center of that punctuation mark.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner previously left a voicemail message with counsel for Applicant, in which the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 12 and 21 may be allowable if rewritten to include claim 3. Accordingly, the present amendment includes the amendment suggested by the Examiner.

The system of the present invention permits access to a repository by a non-provider user, the non-provider user being selected from a group of event clients, vendors and suppliers. *See generally, In re Paulsen*, 31 USPQ2d 1671, 1673 (CAFC 1994)(Although no "litmus test" exists as to what effect should be accorded to words contained in a preamble, review of a patent in its entirety should be made to determine whether the inventors intended such language to represent an additional structural limitation or mere introductory language.")

Steadham is limited to use only by certain “insiders” (e.g., a hotel event planner) who would be interested in preparing a bid related to the use, by others, of the insiders’ facility. Steadham is clearly not a system that can be used by both an event provider and a non-provider user.

As previously discussed, Steadham provides a system that allows a facility to prepare bids for hosting an event. See column 1, lines 14-20. In preparing a bid, Steadham uses a database that is associated with a CAD system. Using the CAD system, facility personnel can design a room layout for a particular event (such as a wedding or banquet). Meanwhile, the database of Steadham allows the facility manager to plan for food and labor considerations. Steadham clearly does not teach or suggest the advantage of allowing a non-provider user access to its system. Furthermore, because Steadham does not permit (or suggest) access by outsiders, there is absolutely no need or motivation to combine Steadham with Deinhart and, accordingly, no need (or teaching) for Steadham to use a restriction component.

Applicant also respectfully submits that Steadham does not recite the use of a “video camera” at Col 3, lines 35 – 40. Rather, the cited passage merely states that Steadham clients are provided with a videocassette that contains views of proposed room layouts (as prepared in the CAD/DATA system, see Col. 3, Lines 28-33) that have been uploaded on to the videocassette from the CAD system. Therefore, the clients, vendors and suppliers of Steadham have no ability to view, control or monitor event and production sites once a particular bid has been approved. Therefore, Steadham does not teach or suggest the use of a video camera that is operable to transmit images of an event display in real time such that such images are viewable by the event provider and the non-provider user.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in proper form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Judith T. Lange